**Arkansas Department of Health** 

## Northwest Region Hometown Health Newsletter

April- June 2014



Congratulations Pam Sellers, Pope County LHU Administrator, for 20 years of service with the Arkansas Department of Health!









The Benton County Health Unit set up two booths for the HIPPY USA Literacy Fair for the Rogers School District on April 10th. HIPPY stands for "Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)". Nutritionist Judy Spencer spoke to the families about breastfeeding and general nutrition. The Environmental Health Staff taught children how to properly wash their hands, showed off our collection of bedbugs, and gave the children "tattoos".



The Benton County Environmental Health Specialists participated in the Rogers Summer Celebration on June 6th. This is an annual event celebrating the last day of school. They taught kids how to wash their hands using "Glo-Germ", had bedbugs to view under a microscope and talked to the parents about various other topics such as septic systems, swimming pools, & "tattoos".







Most people don't realize that the food inspectors spend their summers and many weekends and holidays inspecting all the fairs, festivals and farmers markets in their areas. Pictured: Freddie Young and Kathy Spencer inspecting food vendors at the Rogers International Food Festival.









The Earth Day event at Cooper Elementary in Bella Vista. This was a day-long event that allowed 670 children grades K-4 to learn about several environmental & nature topics. The booth consisted of 3 parts: Bedbugs, Rocks/Fossils, and "Flush This, Not That!"

The Bedbug portion featured locally collected bedbugs for view under a microscope along with pictures of bites and tips on how to identify them. In their jobs, the Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) have found a lot of interesting rocks and fossils so they brought a few to share with the children. The final part of the booth was titled "Flush This....Not That!" The idea was to get the kids to see the connection between what they flush into their septic system and water pollution. With 2 simple models, they showed that when they flush the wrong things, the soil can't do its job and clean the water. When kids think about what they are flushing, then they are helping to protect our water from pollution.

(The toilet proved once again to be quite the conversation piece-especially for the boys!)



*Wellfest! A Day in Motion*, sponsored by Bridges to Wellness was held Saturday, June 14th at the Bob Henry Park in Downtown Siloam Springs and featured a 5K, bike rides, culinary delights cooking demos by local chefs, Zumba, yoga, Crossfit, and pickle ball.





#### Baxter County

April 17th, Baxter County Health
Unit had a booth set up for the Baxter
County Government Day open house
held at the courthouse. The open
house is an opportunity for adults and
children to learn how county
government works and how tax
dollars are being spent.



Left to right: Stacey Ferretti, RN - clinic coordinator; Judy Greenslade, RN; Lou Anne McLendon, RN - Administrator; Secretary of State Mark Martin.



During the Baxter County School Immunization Week, staff handed out drinks and cookies to all the school kids who were receiving their school immunizations.

#### Carroll County



Environmental Health Specialists Hilary Hocut and Andrea Sanders participated in the Carroll County Teen Summit on April 30th. They spoke about environmental health and demonstrated how to wash their hands properly.

Benton, Carroll and Washington Counties organized a Rabies Clinic Weeks in the month of April. For one week, veterinarians offered the rabies vaccinations as low as \$5 for dogs and cats.

Picture is from the Centerton Rabies Clinic operated by Dr. Charles Hatfield, DVM. The turnout was so great that people reported waiting in lines up to 3 hours!





#### Conway County









An All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) safety event was held at Morrilton City Park Thursday April 24th. The purpose of the event was to get young riders fitted to the right size ATV and to give them a helmet when they ride. The event also included safety instructions. Over two hundred helmets were fitted and given to the young people. Last year in Conway County there were 4 youth deaths from ATV accidents. The event and food was sponsored by XTO Energy a division of Exxon Mobile along with Arkansas Children's Hospital, Arkansas 4-H (who provided the vehicles for the kids to be fitted on,) Kids First, and the Home Town Coalition of Conway County. Representing XTO Energy was Keith Simpson and Mike Todd.



#### Conway County





The Conway County Hometown Health Coalition sponsored the annual Law Enforcement Appreciation luncheon on May 2nd at the T.C. Vaughn Senior Center in Morrilton. City, county, and state law enforcement officers in the area were recognized for their efforts and dedication to improving the health and safety of Conway County youth and families.



#### Crawford & Sebastian Counties



Partnering with Mercy Fort Smith, Crawford & Sebastian Counties received a grant from the DEGEN Foundation for \$15,000.00 to buy flu vaccine for the mobile flu van which will travel to school flu clinics. Staff from Mercy will work with the community and set up a flu clinic somewhere in the community on same day as the school clinics. This will allow the public more access to flu vaccinations and they will not have to drive far.

#### Franklin County



Komen Race in Ozark. Pictured Left to Right: Deb Lamz, RN and Angela Ross, Lead Clerk both from Sebastian County LHU, &. Debby Harris, RN BreastCare Coordinator.





#### Newton County





#### You are Invited

Inspirational speakers come and go, but do they make an impact? David Parnell will make a long lasting impression. David has been where you never want your child to go! His personal fight against methamphetamine has put him on a journey that almost took his life with a suicide attempt, to now speaking to schools, churches, jails and communities about the dangers of meth. His story is heartfelt by most skeptics and gives hope to those who may already be facing the dragon of drug addiction.

This is an opportunity to understand and learn about this blight of pandemic proportions that affects all of us. This is a free event for eighth grade students.

April 23, 2014 starting at 9:00 AM **Carroll Electric Building** Jasper, AR

Sponsored by the Newton County Substance Abuse Prevention

Newton County Teen Summit Presenter David Parnell (Left) and the Teen Summit Invitation (Below.)

One hundred students attended from all Newton County Schools. Food served to the students was provided by a Blue and You foundation grant.

Coalition

Newton County Teen Summit н Your eighth grader is invited d to the second annual Newton G County Teen Summit on -H E Wednesday, April 23rd @ the Carroll Electric Building in Ø Jasper 0 (1) We hope to see them there!



#### Pope County



Senior Networking Day at the Hughes Center in Russellville.





The Bike Blast event held in Russellville at the Train Depot on April 12th provided 200 kids with bicycle helmets and education on bicycle safety. The event was sponsored by a Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG), Russellville Police Department, Carr's Chain Reaction, Arch Ford Education Coop, Arkansas Department of Health, River Valley Prevention Coalition, and Wal-mart.



#### Searcy County





Grant writing seminar in Searcy County on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Training was conducted by Beverly Miller with AR Children's Hospital and UAMS.



ADH and Growing a Healthy Searcy County committee hosted their first Safety Baby Shower. There were nine pregnant moms present. Lunch was provided by the committee members. The Searcy County Quilters Guild provided handmade quilts to all the mothers. Decorations were provided by the county extension office. A local photographer gave each mother a coupon for a free professional photo session and several vendors were present to give information and door prizes. The presenters were Cheria Lindsey, Diana Nash, Mary Eakin, Libby Seftar, and Julie Blair.

#### Searcy County





Cheria Lindsey, RN (Top left picture) partnered with Searcy County Hometown Health Improvement to provide an interactive booth presentation on "Don't Shake, Don't Smoke" to reduce infant mortality at the Searcy County Health and Safety Expo. Cheria provided a demonstration of shaking a baby with the Realityworks Infant and the effects of shaking a baby, the resulting brain injury, the reasons shaking occurs, and ways to cope with frustration.

Cassie Cochran and Cindy Horeis (Bottom right picture) staff a booth on MRC/SERV to recruit volunteers to serve in public health.







The Growing a Healthy Searcy County Committee and the Searcy County School District worked with community volunteers to bring the USDA Summer Feeding Program and the Rice Depot Backpack





#### Sebastian County



Matt Hicks (served in Afghanistan in 2003) set up a Memorial Day Display for the Sebastian County Health Unit. With the help of Keith Mason (Vietnam Veteran, donated many of the Flags), HB Junk (Donated the big American Flag), Curt Dieter (Air Force, donated the helmet and helped set it up), Angela Ross (husband currently serves in the Army and her son just enlisted in the Navy, purchased the decorations and table covers), and Liz Jones (Husband was a Vietnam Veteran, put the finishing touch on decorating after the display was built).

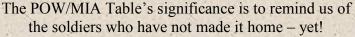
*Memorial Day* is set aside for soldiers and airmen who were lost on the battlefield, and also encompasses those soldiers who have now passed on.

Veterans Day is observed for those soldiers and airmen still living.



#### Sebastian County





One small table is symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner, alone against his or her oppressors.

The tablecloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms.

The single rose displayed in the vase, reminds us of the families and loved ones of our comrades-in-arms, who keep the faith awaiting their return.

The red ribbon, tied so prominently on the vase, is reminiscent of the witness to their unyielding determination to demand a proper accounting of our missing.

A slice of lemon is on the bread plate to remind us of their bitter fate. There is salt upon the bread plate, symbolic of the family's tears as they wait.

The glass is inverted, they cannot toast with us.

The chair is empty, they are not here.





The "Battlefield Cross" symbolizes a fallen soldier. The helmet & identification tags signify the fallen soldier. The inverted rifle with bayonet signals a time for prayer, a break in the action to pay tribute to our comrade. The combat boots represent the final march of the last battle.

#### Van Buren County



Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, Vanessa Martin put together this bulletin board and staff shrank the cards and attached a label to individually wrapped twizzlers and handed out to clients during Public Health Week.

Donna Branscum and Mary Eakin at the Ozark Mountain Health Community Fair on April 18th, promoting ADH services









# River Valley & Ozark

#### Milk depot started in Van Buren County

By Tammy Keith



Teresa Gates (left) registered nurse and internationally board-certified lactation consultant for the Van Buren County Health Department in Clinton, and Vanessa Martin, breastfeeding peer counselor, show some of the breast milk donated to the milk depot at the department. The milk will be sent to Texas to be pasteurized before being distributed to hospitals, including those in Arkansas, to be fed to premature babies.

The open house for the Milk Depot was held June 17th.

There's a growing demand for breast milk, especially in hospital neonatal units across the country. It's predominantly for premature babies. Now new mothers in the River Valley area are able to help by donating their extra breast milk at a new milk depot. Van Buren County Health Unit and WIC teamed up with the Mother's Milk Bank of North Texas to begin collecting breast milk donations.

#### Washington County





Washington County Pool School in May 2014. Every year, counties with a lot of public/semi-public swimming pools host a "Pool School" for the local operators. Many of the operators are maintenance personnel or volunteers that have pool care added to their duties when they have never dealt with pools. The class that explains the basics: why you need chlorine, water chemistry, safety, how to use the test kit, recreational water illnesses, etc.



Brenda Patterson presenting at the Shiloh Museum in Springdale, April 2014. The presentation topic was "The History of Tobacco Advertising." She gave a thorough description of Big Tobacco's scurrilous media campaigns, emphasizing how they specifically targeted women and African Americans. She showed graphic examples of advertisements that give blatantly false information about the health effects of tobacco use.



#### Washington County









On-site EHS' attended a week-long soils class presented in part by the U of A and Soil Classifiers.

Professional Soil Classifiers class in Arkansas was taught by Larry West (DR), Edgar Mersiovski (NRCS), and Kris Brye (UofA). Select EHS' from across the State were invited to attend the training held in Fayetteville the week of June 16th. They received in-class training in soil development, physical and chemical properties and classification. They also spent time in the field evaluating and discussing soil test pits in the Fayetteville area. Sam Dunn, one of our Onsite Program Specialists also provided training to the group on alternate wastewater systems and pressurized distribution. EHS' must have a thorough knowledge of soils to determine their suitability for onsite wastewater disposal applications. This training helped to improve that knowledge and ensure the competency of our staff. Those from our Region who attended are: Caroline Eastman-Benton County, Piper Satterfield-Benton County, Melissa Wonnacott-Washington County, Andrea Sanders-Madison County, Billy Rea-Van Buren County, Aaron Davis- Pope County, Richard Bowen- Program Specialist, Sam Dunn-Program Specialist.







Christine McKnelly, Community Health Promotion Specialist, presenting on: "What They Don't Tell You About Obesity!" at APHA.



Sarah Brisco, Community Health Promotion Specialist, presenting at APHA on Eating Disorders.

#### CHNS

Miranda Curbow, Nancy March, & Cheria Lindsey— Community Health Nurse Specialist at the Arkansas Cancer Summit.





SPARK is a research-based, evidence-based physical education program for teachers and recreation leaders that has a highly active curriculum. Many schools have purchased the SPARK Curriculum and last year the Arkansas Department of Health provided this for some schools and sent three individuals to be trained.



#### Resources Page

In order to encourage increased chronic disease healthcare provider usage of tobacco interventions for patients, the Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program through its Systems Training and Outreach Program (STOP) in collaboration with Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Branch, has launched an interactive online training known as: "Tobacco Use Intervention Strategies for Patients with Chronic Disease"

The purpose of the training is to teach the following:



- 1. Recognize the reasons to prioritize tobacco treatment in patients with chronic illness.
- 2. Confidently address tobacco use with chronic disease patients in a variety of clinical settings (inpatient, outpatient and in-home).
- 3. Motivate patients with chronic disease to improve their health by stopping tobacco use.
- 4. Describe the services offered by the Arkansas Tobacco Quitline (ATQ).
- 5. Arrange referral of chronic disease patients to ATQ for cessation services using electronic referral methods.

The training will take approximately 1 hour. Upon completion of the training and evaluation, CME credits are available at no charge to you.

The Online Training can be accessed at any time by clicking the link below: <a href="http://www.arstop.org/trainings/tobacco-intervention/">http://www.arstop.org/trainings/tobacco-intervention/</a>



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